

Application No. 10/602,363
Response to Office Action

Customer No. 01933

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-20 have been canceled, and claims 21-36 have been added.

New claims 21 and 22 have been prepared based on, for example, the disclosure in Figs. 1 and 2A-2C.

New claims 23-25 have been prepared based on, for example, the disclosure in Figs. 3A-3D.

New claims 26 and 27 have been prepared based on, for example, the disclosure in Figs. 4A-4D.

New claims 28-30 have been prepared based on, for example, the disclosure in Figs. 5A-5C.

New claims 31-35 have been prepared based on, for example, the disclosure in Figs. 7-9.

And new claim 36 has been prepared based on, for example, the disclosure in Fig. 10.

No new matter has been added and is respectfully requested that new claims 21-36 be approved and entered.

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CLAIM FEE

The application was originally filed with 20 claims of which 3 were independent. The application now contains 16 claims, of which 6 are independent. Accordingly, a claim fee in the amount of \$600.00 for the addition of 2 extra independent claims is attached hereto. In addition, authorization is hereby given to charge any additional fees which may be determined to be required to Account No. 06-1378.

THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

Claims 12-15 and 17-29 were rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by USP 4,553,851 ("Matsumoto et al"); claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of the combination of USP 5,243,578 ("Mathez") and USP 6,355,873 ("Ishikawa"); claims 1, 4, 7-8 and 16 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of the combination of Matsumoto et al and Ishikawa; claims 5 and 6 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of the combination of Matsumoto et al, Ishikawa and USP 6,372,977 ("Miyoshi"); claims 1, 9 and 10 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of the combination of USP 6,021,099 ("Aoki et al") and Ishikawa; and claim 11 was rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of the combination of Aoki et al, Ishikawa

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and USP 6,430,112 ("Amano"). These rejections, however, are respectfully traversed with respect to new claims 21-36.

According to the present invention as recited in new independent claim 21, a plurality of bulb-shaped semiconductor elements are arranged such that at least one is provided at each of at least a selected plurality of the hour indexes, for supplying drive power to the timepiece module. Thus, the semiconductor elements can be used as ornamentation for the hour indexes or numerals.

According to the present invention as recited in new independent claim 23, a frame-shaped member is fixed coaxially with and above the face so as to cover a peripheral portion of the face, and the plurality of bulb-shaped semiconductor elements are provided in a ring-like array between the frame-shaped member and the face.

According to the present invention as recited in new independent claim 26, the casing includes a bezel, and the plurality of bulb-shaped semiconductor elements are disposed in the groove provided in the bezel. With this structure, the bezel can be ornamented with the bulb-shaped semiconductor elements disposed in the groove.

According to the present invention as recited in new independent claim 28, a supporting member is provided at a rear

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side of the face to support the semiconductor elements between the face and the supporting member.

According to the present invention as recited in new independent claim 31, an electronic apparatus includes a light-transparent crystal, which is U-shaped in cross-section, mounted on the case so as to face the face, and a solar battery is disposed along an open end crystal, which is positioned at a periphery of the open side of the U-shaped cross-section of the crystal. (See Fig. 7, for example.)

With this structure, when the crystal is irradiated with external light, the display provided within the case is irradiated with part of the external light through the crystal. Thus, the display can be viewed from outside. In addition, the solar batteries are irradiated sufficiently with part of the external light guided by the crystal through the outer peripheral portion of the crystal, thereby causing the solar batteries to generate sufficient electric energy. Still further, since the solar batteries are disposed along the outer periphery of the crystal, a display area of the display within the case is not limited by the solar batteries. And since the solar batteries are disposed along the open end of the crystal, the overall size of the timepiece is not increased.

According to the present invention as recited in new independent claim 36, the case includes a crystal, the display

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member provided within the case is light-transparent, and a plurality of solar batteries arranged along an outer periphery of the display member.

With this structure, when the display provided within the case is irradiated with external light, the display can be viewed from outside. In addition, the solar batteries are irradiated sufficiently with part of the external light guided by the crystal toward the outer periphery of the crystal, thereby causing the solar batteries to generate sufficient electric energy. And since the solar batteries are disposed along the outer periphery of the display member, a display area of the display within the case is not limited by the solar batteries.

It is respectfully submitted that none of the cited references, taken singly or in combination, disclose, teach or suggest the above-identified structural features of new independent claims 21, 23, 26, 31 and 36.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that each of new independent claims 21, 23, 26, 31 and 36, as well as each of new claims 22, 24, 25, 27-40 and 32-35 respectively depending therefrom, all patentably distinguishes over the cited references, taken singly or in any combination, under 35 USC 102 as well as under 35 USC 103.

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In view of the foregoing, entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,

/Douglas Holtz/

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